

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application, in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The examiner rejects Claims 12 and 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kelly et al. The examiner states that as per Claim 12, Kelly discloses an arbitration circuit for and output port comprising a FIFO queue that specifically refers to element 831 in Fig. 8. The examiner states that the head pointer from the selected packet is utilized to select the packet from a common memory for the plurality of arbitration circuits and specifically refers to Col. 4, lines 50-65.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. There are 3 ports shown in the circuit of Fig. 8, port 863, 865 and 805. Port 859 has its own input buffer 839 and its own output buffer 843. Port 865 has its own input buffer 841 and its own output buffer 845. Port 805 has its own input buffer 831 and its own output buffer 819. Accordingly, those skilled in the art can see that this architecture is exactly the architecture described in the present application as being in the prior art. That is, each port has its own memory for storing the packets of data that will be input to or output from the port. It should be noted that the input buffer 831, for example, that the examiner refers to as to being equivalent to the FIFO queue of the present invention contains the actual data itself, whereas the present invention the FIFO queue contains only the head pointers and characterizing data and not the actual data itself. Claim 12 has been amended in this respect. With respect to the text in Col. 3, lines 50-65, this refers to storage device 218 in Fig. 2. As it is clearly seen from looking at Fig. 2, the storage device 218 is not part of the switch 206 but is part of the entire computer system, and it's not part of the arbitration circuit for an output port, of the present invention.

The remaining claims are dependent directly or indirectly from Claim 12 and therefore patentable for the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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